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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Reception of Foreign Broadcasts in Sofia	DATE DISTR.	30 August 1954
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1. Foreign broadcasts are listened to by means of a private 1940 Philipps 4-tube radio. This set has shortwave reception and works on an outer aerial. Necessary spare parts are easily available as all Czech-manufactured Tesla spare parts are suitable for Philipps sets, and Tesla parts are in ample supply in Bulgaria. The short waves at 16 m. - 25 m. wave length are received best, although disturbances occur frequently.
2. A working person cannot listen to foreign broadcasts during the day until 6 p.m. From early morning until 4 p.m. he is at his place of work, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. he usually attends meetings. On Mondays, days when electricity is out in Sofia, he cannot listen until 10 p.m. Foreign broadcasts are listened to along with family and sometimes with friends who are visiting. It is assumed that fellow workers, who are non-Party men, also listen because on arriving at work in the morning they usually discuss news items broadcast the previous night.
3. Programs listened to are the BBC programs in English, German, and Bulgarian; the Voice of America in Bulgarian; and Radio Free Europe in Bulgarian. The BBC news broadcasts are preferred to those of the Voice of America because of their better presentation as well as their objectivity, with reference to the commentaries as well as the news items. The news from the Voice of America contains too much propaganda which is not always realistic. For instance, in 1953 the Voice of America broadcast regarding a shortage of fruit prevailing in Bulgaria and the lines forming in front of groceries, when at the time fruit was plentiful and free to all consumers. There is also a skeptical attitude toward the programs of Radio Free Europe because of its propaganda not excluding untrue facts about Bulgarian internal affairs.

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4. The BBC German programs read by Lindlei Frazer and Thompson (?) are favored, and the BBC Bulgarian programs read by Vlada Karastoyanova are very popular. Broadcasts dealing with Bulgarian internal affairs are eagerly awaited by the local audience.
5. All foreign broadcasts are jammed in Bulgaria, and there is no remedy except to look for another station. This is usually easy with regard to the Voice of America because of its many different wave lengths, but is more difficult with respect to the BBC which transmits on a small number of wave lengths.

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